



# NEWSLETTER

## State Government Reorganization Plan Outlines Changes For Exposition Park

### Ridley-Thomas Encourages Stakeholders to Comment on Proposal at January '05 Meeting

Created at the request of Governor Schwarzenegger to modernize California state government, the California Performance Review (CPR) released their final recommendations earlier this year and concluded its eight statewide public hearings on the recommendations on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The four volume report made over 1,200 individual recommendations and touched upon almost every aspect of state government operations and structure, including a range of activities of interest to stakeholders within Exposition Park. Specifically, the CPR proposes elimination of General Fund support of the California Science Center, consolidation of the Science Center into a Department of Public Resources, elimination of the California African American Museum (CAAM) Board of Directors and provision of security and public safety for Exposition Park by a newly created Department of Public Safety.

The Commission's report has been posted on the Web (<http://www.report.cpr.ca.gov/>) and includes a summary of public opinion – both in favor and in opposition. The report also includes a summary of key points to be considered by the admin-



*A view of the historic Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County from the seven-acre Exposition Park Rose Garden. The mission of the museum is to inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds. The Rose Garden is the largest public rose garden in the country and is home to 100 varieties of roses and 10,000 rose bushes.*

istration as it continues to evaluate proposals to implement the new structure of California state government. In more detail, listed below are findings of the CPR Commission that impact Exposition Park and the surrounding area.

### California Performance Review Commission Findings

#### Elimination of General Fund Support

The Commission reported public opposition to efforts to offset the elimination of General Fund support by increased admission fees as essentially unworkable due to decreased attendance and the impact on the public-private partnership represented by the Science Center and its Foundation.

#### Public Safety

The Commission report fails to address the specifics of placing security and public safety functions under the umbrella of a new State Department of Public Safety. However, a number of issues were raised about the ability of such a department to address some of the specialized

public safety and law enforcement functions of State government that should require much greater and detailed attention by the Administration as it considers this recommendation.

#### Consolidation of the Science Center and California African American Museum

The report considers modifying a CPR recommendation to consolidate the Science Center and CAAM into a Department of Natural Resources. It proposes a Cultural Affairs Division that "separates the historical and cultural functions into a distinct unit that would include the California Endowment, the California Arts Council, the Native American Heritage Commission, the State Historical Resources Commission, elements of the State Park system that are cultural or historical in nature, the State Library, and state museums (including the Science Center and African-American museum). This unit could remain within a Parks, History and Culture division or become a separate Cultural Affairs division within the proposed Department of Natural Resources."

#### Stay Tuned

Because of the enormity of the changes proposed in the CPR and the effect they can potentially have on Exposition Park and the surrounding communities, Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas is encouraging all interested parties to follow the developments regarding the CPR by submitting input and written comments voicing their concerns to his district office.

In the meantime, the Office of Speaker Nunez has instructed Assembly Committee Consultants to review CPR proposals and is in the process of developing a strategic approach for addressing the recommendations and related Governmental Reorganization Plans proposed by the Administration. Interested parties participate in legislative hearings addressing these recommendations, if and when they occur.

Moreover, it is likely that some elements of the CPR will emerge in the context of the Governor's budget and his State of the State address, both scheduled to be publicly released in January 2005. In an effort to protect community stakeholder interests and facilitate involvement in the CPR and the closely related budget process, Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas and the 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Empowerment Congress will host the Annual Budget Meeting on January 22, 2005.

# Ridley-Thomas Hails Passage of Proposition 63

## Measure to Provide Funds for Important Community Mental Health Services

Earlier this month, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Expansion Act, which establishes a funding mechanism for mental health services outside of the annual budget act, specifies that the new monies are not intended to supplant existing funds and requires the funds to be used exclusively services created in the Mental Health Services Act.

“The passage of this ballot initiative affirms Californian’s commitment to the efficient and cost-effective diagnosis and treatment of mental illness,” said Ridley-Thomas. “Prop 63 is the first statewide effort to systematically address the increasing number of people suffering from mental illness and the secondary issues, like homelessness, drug abuse and crime that all too often are by-products of mental illness. These funds will provide effective community based treatment for those individuals without

costly institutionalization and allow them to be functioning members of society.”

Specifically, Proposition 63 imposes an additional 1% tax on wage earners making over \$1 million a year to expand community mental health services. The revenue generated would be used for the following activities:

- Fund the expansion and development of innovative programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors at the county level that will improve access to underserved communities, promote interagency collaboration and increase access to mental health services.
- Fund the development of statewide mental health programs including prevention and early intervention programs designed to prevent the progression of severe and disabling mental illness.

- Fund statewide education and training programs to address the shortage of mental health providers and the construction of facilities needed to provide mental health services.
- Create the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Authority to oversee and monitor the proposition’s expenses.

### Cost vs. Benefit

The Legislative Analyst Office’s (LAO) estimates that Proposition 63 will generate \$275 million in 2004-05, \$750 million in 2005-06 and \$800 million in 2006-07. The LAO anticipates that the revenues will continue to increase each year thereafter.

The LAO also estimates that this proposition has the potential to save the state and local governments hundreds of millions of dollars a year as a result of reduced incarceration costs, medical care, homeless shelters and other social service programs.

If you know someone who is need of mental health services, the following organizations are available for assistance.

**The Coalition of Mental Health Professionals**  
9130 S. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90003  
(323) 777-3120

**Clinica Monsenor Oscar A. Romero**  
123 S. Alvarado  
Los Angeles, CA 90057  
(213) 989-7700

**El Nido Services**  
2152 W. Manchester Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90047  
(323) 971-7360

**Di Di Hirsch Mental Health Center**  
1328 W. Manchester Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90044  
(323) 778-9593

**Children’s Institute International**  
711 S. New Hampshire  
Los Angeles, CA 90005  
(213) 385-5100

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Center**  
3787 S. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(323) 766-2360

**Portals House Inc.**  
679 S. New Hampshire Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90005  
(213) 387-1129

**Special Services for Groups**  
605 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 553-1800

**Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services**  
3200 Motor Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90034  
(310) 836-1223

**Korean American Family Service Center**  
3727 W. 6th Street, Suite 509  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 389-6755

**Koreatown Youth & Community Center**  
680 S. Wilton Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90005  
(213) 365-7400

## Ridley-Thomas Kicked Off Free Dia de los Muertos Celebration at California Science Center

### Event included Family Activities, Live Music and Dance Performances

On Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas in conjunction with BODYWORLDS: The Anatomic Exhibition of Real Human Bodies, sponsored the California Science Center’s *Day of the Dead Celebration* and welcomed families at the cultural exchange. *Day of the Dead* activities were free and family friendly and included decorating Calaveras (sugar skulls and skeleton pasta art projects), creating paper marigold flowers (one of the traditional *Day of the Dead* flowers), painting skull masks and video screenings on the historical and cultural elements of the *Day of the Dead*. Guests also enjoyed live mariachi music and performances by Aztec and folklorico dance groups.

Originating in pre-Hispanic Mexico as a native tradition, the *Day of the Dead*



*Joined by the family and friends of Sandra Figueroa of El Pueblo de Centro and Dr. Marie Torres of AltaMed, Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas opened up the Dia de los Muertos celebration in Exposition Park.*

observance has changed through the years to become known as a time when families remember their dead and celebrate the continuity of life. Sumptuous meals, color decorations and the exchange of small gifts, such as sugar skeletons, among friends and the family are several traditional highlights that mark the celebration held annually on the second day of November.

### Coming Events

**December**

- 16th ADEC HOLIDAY RETREAT**  
Doheny Mansion  
Mount Saint Mary’s College
- 23rd ADEC EXECUTIVE MEETING**  
Exposition Park  
Executive Offices East

**January**

- 7th 48TH AD SATELLITE OFFICE GRAND OPENING**  
Pio Pico/Koreatown Library
- 13th 7TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE**  
“Homelessness in Los Angeles County”  
Tom Bradley Tower Towers  
Los Angeles City Hall
- 22nd 3RD ANNUAL BUDGET SUMMIT**  
“Dollars and Sense: Making Government Work for Our Community”  
Orthopedic Medical Magnet School